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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

October Term, 1947

J. D. SHELLEY, *et al.*,
Petitioners,
v.
LOUIS KRAEMER, *et al.*,
Respondents.

No. 72

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

ORSEL McGHEE and MINNIE S. McGHEE, his wife,
Petitioners,
v.
BENJAMIN J. SIPES and ANNA C. SIPES, JAMES A. COON and ADDIE A. COON, *et al.*,
Respondents.

No. 87

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Consolidated Brief *Amicus* of Executive Committee of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches of the U. S., The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches, The Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, The Committee on Church and Race.

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WM. KINCAID NEWMAN,
Of Counsel.

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1. The Congregational Christian Churches of the United States with approximately 1,100,000 members and some

5800 local churches are on record through their representative national body known as the General Council, as follows:

> "'We repent of the sin of racial segregation as practiced both within and outside our churches, and respond to the mandate of the Christian Gospel to promote with uncompromising word and purpose, the integration in our Christian churches and our democratic society of all persons of whatever race, color, or ancestry on the basis of equality and mutual respect in an inclusive fellowship.
>
> "'We affirm as our own these words adopted by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America (meeting at Columbus, Ohio, March 5-7, 1946):
>
> > 'The Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America hereby renounces the pattern of segregation in race relations as unnecessary and undesirable and a violation of the Gospel of love and human brotherhood . . . As proof of their sincerity in this renunciation they will work for a non-segregated Church in a non-segregated society.'"

2. The above Resolution was adopted at Grinnell, Iowa in June of 1946. At this time a two-year program in race relations was set up throughout the denomination in order to forward the aims and objectives of the Resolution and to initiate long-term efforts in the direction of a truly integrated and inclusive Church as well as a non-segregated community. Such a Church and Community are the inevitable outgrowth of the principles and moral values which are both explicit and implicit in the Christian message. Segregation is a sinful denial of fellowship between men and women who are equally chosen of God whatever their color or national ancestry may be. Because of the evil conse-

quences of segregation—psychological, economic, sociological—this commonly practiced form of discrimination on the basis of race and creed denies the very basis of our democratic creed and undermines our moral influence in international affairs. We believe that racial restrictive covenants are unconstitutional, immoral, and against the public interest and welfare. They increase and perpetuate hostility between groups and are a persistent threat to peace and progress in our society. It is our conviction that a great moral victory would be achieved by this Nation if the constitutional and democratic principles of America were to be upheld by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States invalidating these unjust and discriminatory agreements so far as they are now enforceable by court action.

3. For these reasons the aforementioned Boards and Agencies of the Congregational Christian Churches of the United States hereby request permission of this Court to appear as *amicus curiae* and to adopt the position taken and the brief filed in behalf of the petitioners in these cases.

Respectfully submitted,

MELVILLE J. FRANCE,
Counsel for Executive Committee of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches of the U. S., The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational and Christian Churches, The Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches, The Committee on Church and Race.

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